



Researches Relevant to Theosophy

Vol. I, No. I

A quarterly publication devoted to the collection of researches in the sciences and humanities that are relevant to theosophical studies.

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Reincarnation Case Study in Japan Involving Suicide

Why are Animals Altruistic?

More Europeans Becoming Non-Religious

Pope Said Atheists Can Go to Heaven

Gravity Due to Electromagnetism

Telekinetic Able to Lift Table

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of ***Researches Relevant to Theosophy***.

This publication was born during the 142nd international convention of the Theosophical Society in 2018 in Adyar, Chennai, India, among the three editors. It was realized that most lecturers, writers and students of theosophy are engaged in various forms of research to support their viewpoints or hypotheses. At the same time, there is a staggering quantity of research coming out every week from all over the world in the different disciplines that are relevant to theosophy that theosophists are unaware of. This publication is intended to help them be more informed about significant findings of scientists, doctors, scholars and researchers in the various disciplines.

The importance of being kept abreast with scientific development was underscored by the Mahatmas in their letters. Mahatma Koot Hoomi wrote in 1882 to A. O. Hume that “Modern science is our best ally” (*Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, Letter 65, chronological edition). The Maha Chohan similarly stated that “it is absolutely necessary to inculcate it [their doctrine] gradually enforcing its theories, unimpeachable facts for those who know, with direct inferences deducted from and corroborated by the evidence furnished by modern exact science” (Appendix II, chronological edition).

It is hoped that more people will be involved in the gathering of research information. We appreciate your feedback. You may contact us at <http://theoscience.org/index.php/contact/> or comment on the website of [Researches Relevant to Theosophy](http://theoscience.org).

Researches Relevant to Theosophy

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Contributions to this publication are welcome. Email to the editors the title, date, source and summary of the research report, together with the full citation of the source or sources, whether website, book or article.

Biology
Health and Medicine
Psychology

Date: April, 2017

Source: Harvard Gazette

Harvard Study Finds One Key to Health, Long Life and Happiness

An 80-year research by Harvard University's Study of Adult Development has shown that the most significant factor in a person's life that influences health, longevity and happiness is *warm relationship*.

The study, started in 1938 and still ongoing at this time, followed the life of 724 men, partly from Harvard and others from Boston's inner city. Tracking their medical records, career, marriage, relationships, etc., the study found that those who have a higher "level of satisfaction in their relationships at the age of 50 was a better predictor of physical health than their cholesterol levels were."

In a TED talk, the study's current director, Dr. Waldinger, stated that those who had warm relationships were the one's who lived longer and happier, while those who were lonely died earlier. "Loneliness kills," he said. "It's as powerful as smoking or alcoholism."

Source: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/04/over-nearly-80-years-harvard-study-has-been-showing-how-to-live-a-healthy-and-happy-life/>

<https://www.ted.com/talks/>

[robert waldinger what makes a good life lessons from the longest study on happiness](https://www.ted.com/talks/robert-waldinger-what-makes-a-good-life-lessons-from-the-longest-study-on-happiness)

<http://www.philstar.com/health-and-family/2016/12/07/1650842/relationships-matter-harvard-longitudinal-study-adult>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grant_Study

Space Sciences

Date: March 14, 2018

Source: *New Scientist*

Why Big Bang May Not Be the Beginning

A theory in modern cosmology is suggesting that the Big Bang may not be the beginning of the universe. The Big Bounce Theory propounded by a number of physicists state that prior to the Big Bang the universe underwent contraction due to pressure until it reached a point that it expanded again. They say that the universe may have been undergoing continuous contraction and expansion.

This view is similar to the Hindu view about the periodic manifestation and dissolution (manvantara and pralaya) of the universe, a view also adopted by the

Secret Doctrine of H. P. Blavatsky.

In The Secret Doctrine, Blavatsky proposes a cyclic model of the universe, in which periods of rest and activity alternate regularly. Due to important problems with the Big Bang Theory, the idea that the universe may be part of a cycle has been gaining attention among the scientific community, and a number of cyclic models have been proposed. Perhaps the least revolutionary of the models (and therefore, the easiest to accept by current cosmology) is the one known as the "Big Bounce," which has been under active investigation since 2017. In this view, the Big Bang is the beginning of a period of expansion, and will be followed by a period of contraction, or a "Big Crunch." This suggests that we could be living at any point in an infinite sequence of universes. This matches H. P. Blavatsky's statement:

The Secret Doctrine affirms ... the Eternity of the Universe in toto as a boundless plane; periodically "the playground of numberless Universes incessantly manifesting and disappearing." (SD I, 16)

Sources: *New Scientist*, March 14, 2018; <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg23731690-700-why-the-big-bang-was-not-the-beginning/>

*Psychology**Education*

Date: March 2014

Source: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Children's Vocabulary Skills Linked to Family Income

Children's vocabulary skills are linked to their economic backgrounds. A research by Stanford University shows that "by 3 years of age, there is a 30 million word gap between children from the wealthiest and poorest families. A recent study shows that the vocabulary gap is evident in toddlers. By 18 months, children in different socio-economic groups display dramatic differences in their vocabularies. By 2 years, the disparity in vocabulary development has grown significantly".

Source: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/feb2014/the-word-gap>

Parapsychology

Date: January 2017

Source: *Journal of Scientific Exploration*

Telekinetic Able to Lift Table

A research on a telekinetic subject in Brazil appeared to show that he was able to lift one side of a table by putting his palms on the surface of the table. The research was done between June 2014 and December 2015, with five video cameras recording the events. Measuring instruments were used to record physical, physiological, and environmental variables.

Sources: Journal of Scientific Exploration, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 159-186, 2017. https://www.scientificexploration.org/docs/31/jse_31_2_Gimeno.pdf

<https://youtu.be/Stoi27PugKI>

<https://youtu.be/rdTBwRkypqo>.

Parapsychology

Date: December 2016

Source: *Journal of Scientific Exploration*

Reincarnation Case Study in Japan Involving Suicide

This is a case study of a Japanese who remembers his past life where he committed suicide. In his previous life, he belonged to the same family and thus the claimed memories and the facts could be compared more easily. The subject was also able to describe memories of his life-between-life.

Source: *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 524-536, 2016; https://www.scientificexploration.org/docs/30/jse_30_4_Ohkado.pdf

Religion

Social Sciences

Date: March 2018

Source: *The Guardian*

More Europeans Becoming Non-Religious

A recent report published by Prof. Stephen Bullivant Of St. Mary's University in London showed that more and more Europeans consider themselves as without religion. "Christianity as a default, as a norm, is gone, and probably gone for good – or at least for the next 100 years," Bullivant said. His report is based on a social survey in 2014-16 among European countries.

Czech Republic is the least religious country in Europe, with 91% of people ages 16-29 having no religious affiliation. The figures in Sweden, Netherlands and Estonia are between 80-90%. UK follows with 70%. The most religious country is Poland, but still with 17% of young adults considering themselves as non-religious.

Source: *The Guardian*, March 21, 2018; [click here to go to website](#)

Earth Sciences

Date: March 14, 2018

Source: *New Scientist*

40,000 Species may be Lost in 2100 Due to Global Warming

If we don't stop climate change, half the animals and plants in the world's wildlife havens will be gone by 2100. That's according to a study gauging what will happen to 80,000 species in 35 of the most wildlife-rich areas, including the Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands.

If no action is taken, the ensuing 4.5°C rise in global temperatures means the Amazon would lose 69 per cent, and Madagascar 60 per cent, of its plant species (Climatic Change, DOI: 10.1007/s10584-128-2158-6).

Source: *New Scientist*, March 14, 2018; <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2163638-we-could-lose-40000-species-by-2100-due-to-climate-change/>

Religion

Date: March 30 2018

Source: *The Guardian*;
New York Times

Pope Reported to Have Said that There is No Hell

The founder of Italian newspaper La Repubblica, Eugenio Scalfari, 93, wrote in an article that the Pope said during their conversation that hell does not exist. Unrepentant souls just disappear. The Vatican quickly clarified that the article was “the fruit of his reconstruction” and not “a faithful transcription of the Holy Father's words”.

In the article, Scalfari wrote asked the Pope where “bad souls” go. The Pope, he said, replied: “They are not punished. Those who repent obtain God's forgiveness and take their place among the ranks of those who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot be forgiven disappear. A hell doesn't exist, the disappearance of sinning souls exists.” Such a view contradicts the standard doctrine of the Catholic Church that hell exists.

Source: *The Guardian*, March 30, 2018; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/30/vatican-scrambles-to-clarify-popes-denial-that-hell-exists>

New York Times, March 30, 2018; <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/30/world/europe/pope-francis-hell-scalfari.html>

Religion

Date: May 29, 2013

Source: National Public Radio (NPR); *New York Daily News*

Pope Says Even Atheists Can Go to Heaven

Pope Francis stated that even atheists can go to Heaven so long as they are good people. The Pope stated this in a letter to La Repubblica as well as in a homily through Radio Vatican.

"The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone! . . . And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. . . . We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good: We will meet one another there."

These statements have serious implications on whether people need to be converted to Catholicism before they are saved. The view of the Catholic Church for centuries was that "outside the Church there is no salvation."

In a letter to La Repubblica, the Pope wrote: "God's mercy has no limits, if you go to him with a sincere and repentant heart, the issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience."

Sources: National Public Radio (NPR); <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2013/05/29/187009384/Pope-Francis-Even-Atheists-Can-Be-Redeemed>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/pope-francis-atheists-heaven-article-1.1354151>

<https://religionnews.com/2013/09/11/pope-francis-tells-atheists-to-obey-their-conscience/>

Biology

Date: March 2006

Source: *Science Daily*; *Nature*

Why are Animals Altruistic?

Researchers at the Laboratoire d'Écologie at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (Ecole Normale Supérieure/CNRS) and the Royal Holloway College (London, United Kingdom) have just explained the evolution of altruistic behavior in animals.

In nature animals have been observed cooperating, and the detection of a genetic predisposition to this type of behavior contradicts Darwin's theory of evolution which predicts a better survival rate for the most selfish animals. The use of mathematic modeling has provided a new explanation for the surprising persistence of this type of behavior which appears, at first sight, to be detrimental to the animal adopting it.

This work is published in *Nature* on 30 March 2006.

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/04/060404201741.htm>

Religion

Date: April 5, 2017

Source: *The Guardian*; *Pew Research Center*

Islam to Become World's Largest Religion by 2075

An analysis of the Pew Research Center shows that “the number of babies born to Muslims is expected to overtake those born to Christians within two decades, making Islam the world’s largest religion by 2075.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/05/muslim-population-overtake-christian-birthrate-20-years>

Health and Medicine

Date: May 13, 2017

Source: *New Scientist*

Increased Cancer Rate in US Linked to Bad Environment

A study by Jyotsna Jagai and her colleagues at the University of Illinois compared data from the Environmental Quality Index from 2000 to 2005 with the incidence of cancer from 2006 to 2010.

Their findings reveal a correlation between increase in cancer incidence with the decrease in environmental quality, particularly in the case of prostate and breast cancer.

Source: *New Scientist*, May 13-19, 2017; <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2130086-increased-cancer-rate-in-us-linked-to-bad-environment/>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cncr.30709>

Space Sciences

Date: August 22, 2008

Source: holoscience.com

Electric Gravity in an Electrical Universe

Ralph Sansbury of MIT’s magnet laboratory proposes an electromagnetic theory of gravity. According to this view, gravity is the result of the aligning of electric dipoles in subatomic particles — protons, neutrons and electrons.

In her writings, H. P. Blavatsky made the startling statement that gravity is not a force of nature.[SDI, p. 490 et seq.] This was supported by her teachers. For example, in 1882 Mahatma K.H. wrote that “there is no gravitation properly speaking; only attraction and repulsion”.[ML93B]

According to Blavatsky, the agent behind the phenomenon of attraction and repulsion is Fohat, whose chief manifestation on the physical plane is electricity and magnetism.

Source: <http://www.holoscience.com/wp/electric-gravity-in-an-electric-universe/>

Psychology

Date: Oct. 5, 2015

Source: *Popular Science*

Practicing in Your Head Can Improve Your Skills

Popular Science magazine reported that athletes who practice their skills in the head can improve as much as those who are actually physical training.

“Sports psychologists have conducted hundreds of studies comparing imagined and physical practice for actions such as throwing darts, juggling, and tap dancing. Overall, the research shows that mental training works. A 2012 study, for example, compared 32 amateur golfers who putted to another 32 who merely held a golf club in their hands and visualized their swings. Under the same training regimen, both groups improved their putts by getting the ball about 4 inches closer to the hole.”

The article stated however that this is true for those who are already skilled, not for novices who don't know the basic skills.

It is to be noted that Annie Besant recommended this approach in the development of personal qualities. In her book, Man's Life in This and Other Worlds (pp. 11-12), she wrote: “One favourite way of mine—for I was very irritable in my younger days — . . . was making myself an embodiment of patience; you never saw such a saint as I was in my meditation; whatever I might have been outside of it during the day, I was absolutely, completely, and perfectly patient in it! Then I brought up round me mentally all the most unpleasant and provoking people that I knew, and I heightened their power of provocation as much as I increased my own power of patience; and so I made a little mental drama, in which they provoked me in every possible way, and I answered as a modern Griselda. After a time, when I met the people, I found that their power of provocation had gone. “Why did I think that person so annoying?” I would wonder. I found that, unconsciously and gradually, I had established patience as a permanent part of my character. Any one of you can do it.”

Source: Popular Science, October 5, 2015. [Click here to see the full article.](#)